

# The Garden Connection

*A newsletter for the gardeners at the Waukesha County Rental Gardens*

## Garden Harvest Breakfast Celebration –August 28th

Mark your calendar for Saturday morning, August 28th for our annual Harvest Celebration to celebrate the garden harvest. We will gather from 9 am to 10:00 am at the picnic tables by the garden entrance. No cost to participate, but we ask you to bring a food item to share with everyone. Items brought in the past include: bakery, a hot breakfast dish, fresh fruit, veggies, etc.



Paper plates, napkins, plastic ware, and coffee provided. No need to RSVP. We will have a short garden meeting at approximately 9:45 am. Let's talk about what is working and what can be improved. I welcome your suggestions.

## Fresh Produce Donations to Food Pantries

Did you plant more vegetables than you need? Interested in donating some of your bounty? We will **collect donations of fresh produce at the Garden on Mondays and Wednesdays, July 26th through August 25th**. Look for the crate by the brown shed. Produce will be delivered to the Food Pantry of Waukesha County. **Produce pick up times at the garden will be Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:30 pm**. If these days and times are not convenient for you or you would like to take it directly to a food pantry, we have attached a list of food pantries in Waukesha County. Please verify their hours and that they accept fresh product donations before going.



## There's Still Time to Plant Vegetables - Days to Harvest!

Did you get a late start on your garden? Wondering if it is too late to plant? Do you have space for more vegetables? With an average frost date of October 1 (give or take) for Southeastern Wisconsin, there's still time to plant vegetables on August 1st or prior if the seed packet has a "days to harvest" date of 60 days or less. "Days to harvest" or "harvest" information can be found on the back of most seed packets. For example, if you plant seeds of beets, bush beans, summer squash, cucumber, peas, and turnips by August 1, you should enjoy a great early fall harvest of some wonderful vegetables. As a rule, September 1 is the last date for planting seeds of leaf lettuce, spinach, and onion sets.

## Questions/Contact Information

Questions? Concerns? Email Lisa at [lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:lboyer@waukeshacounty.gov) or call 262-548-7775. Our office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Please leave a message on voicemail if you call after business hours. Your message will be relayed to Ann Wied. You can also e-mail Ann directly at [ann.wied@wisc.edu](mailto:ann.wied@wisc.edu).



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## Bulletin Board Garden Entrance

Please watch the bulletin board at the entrance to the garden for new messages or updates. It is the easiest way for us to get a timely message to the gardeners! If there is something that you feel we need to include in it, please let us know!

## Do You Have a Gardening Question?

Have a gardening question? You can contact the Extension Horticulture Helpline for Waukesha County by phone on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 am to noon or by e-mail at [uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov](mailto:uwex1@waukeshacounty.gov). Feel free to include photos in your emails.



## Vegetable Plant Donations

A big thanks goes to Kara from plot C-1 who delivered many flats of donated vegetable plants to the rental gardens. Kara is a friend of the owners of Two Girls & A Farm (<https://www.twogirlsandafarm.com/>) who received an over abundance of vegetable plants from a local farmer/gardener who starts the seeds every year in her greenhouse. They offered the plants to Kara to share with us at the rental gardens. Don't assume we will get these veggie plants again next year. We just got lucky this year! Again, thank you Kara! We appreciate it!

## Extension Resources—A Great Source of Info

The UW–Madison Division of Extension offers vegetable gardeners a number of resources to learn how to grow vegetables, as well as how to prevent and control diseases and insects. Browsing our publications, website, and fact sheets will help you be successful in achieving gardening success! Checkout the following sites:

- <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/article-topic/vegetables/>
- <https://learningstore.extension.wisc.edu/>
- <https://pddc.wisc.edu/search-fact-sheets/>

## Water Tanks & Hoses - We Count on Your Help

Be sure to tighten any connections when disconnecting your hoses from the connection. Also, be sure to familiarize yourself with the information on our Water at the Gardens page on our website at [www.waukeshacounty.gov/UWEX/HORT/rg/Water/](http://www.waukeshacounty.gov/UWEX/HORT/rg/Water/). Please contact us if you notice any problems with the hoses or water connections. Thank you!

## Cucumber Beetles

We are hearing that the populations of cucumber beetles are on the rise. Perhaps you've seen this pest in your garden and wondered what it is. This striped and spotted cucumber beetle is a common pest of vine crops (e.g., cucumber, squash, pumpkin, watermelon) that can cause severe damage to roots, leaves, flowers and fruits, as well as interfere with pollination, leading to reduced fruit set. Learn more at <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/articles/cucumber-beetles/>



## Garden Pathways

There are pathways throughout the gardens. Some are larger than others due to plot size and shape. Most of you have a garden path on one or more sides of your garden. **To help control the weeds surrounding your garden plot, we ask that you help weed-whack, mow, or apply mulch to the path.** We appreciate your help.

Ann Wied

Consumer Horticulture Educator  
UW Madison Extension  
Waukesha County



**Extension**

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
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